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but more importantly, to receive and expend private donations. For this initiative to work, the private partnership is not only integral, but essential to its success. I would now like to address some questions I think you may be waiting to ask. First, why focus just on women's health? What about men? As I stated earlier, medical research has historically focused on men's "symptomology". It is...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...only recently that a woman's symptoms to disease are being addressed and researched. Women make up almost 52 percent of this state's population. The woman in the household makes over 80 percent of the health care decisions. Women live longer than men and their conditions tend to be chronic, long-term, and costly. Second, why do we need an initiative? Can't we do it with what we have in DHHS? First of all, I think that DHHS is attempting to do all it can within its structure. The initiative allows the department to build internally on existing structure. It will also provide DHHS the ability to reach outside that structure and pull in the appropriate professionals who have answers to many of the questions regarding women's health. It also allows it to bring in financial resources not otherwise accessible. The Women's Health Initiative of Nebraska brings coordination and a focus that I do not believe can be achieved...

SENATOR COORDSEN: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...without this legislation.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the bill.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Tyson would move to amend. (AM1055, Legislative Journal page 1264.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Tyson, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Senator. My amendment is for the purpose of doing two things. And both of them, I would suggest to you, are nothing more than common sense. The first takes the independent commission status and changes it to an advisory